

REMARKS/ARUGMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 7 and 15 will be amended, whereby claims 1-4, 6-11, and 14-27 will be pending. Claims 1, 24, 25 and 26 are independent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Response To Maintaining Of The Restriction Requirement

In view of Examiner's statement of allowable subject matter in the Office action mailed June 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the non-elected process claims 24 and 25.

Response to Claim Objections

The following objections are set forth in the Official Action:

- Claims 6, 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22 are identical to 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23, respectively.

In response to the objections of record, Applicants have amended claims 7 and 15 by changing their dependency so they depend from claim 2 instead of claim 1. As such, claims 7, 9, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 are no longer identical to claims 6, 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the claim objections be withdrawn and the case passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections of record, and allow each of the pending claims.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald John VEITCH et al.


Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

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